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CHP TO "SCORE" FUNDING IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DUI

SACRAMENTO – Consider this a last call, or warning, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will increase its emphasis on motorists driving under the influence (DUI).

In 2007, there were 1,489 people killed in alcohol-involved collisions in California. In addition, 30,783 were injured under similar circumstances.

"Our goal is to save lives by ensuring California's roadways are a safe place for all motorists, said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "Removing impaired drivers from the road is a giant step in that direction."

Assisting the CHP in its mission is a nearly \$5.9 million dollar grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The grant, "Sobriety Checkpoint Operations and Roving DUI Enforcement (SCORE)," will provide funding for DUI enforcement in an effort to remove impaired drivers from California's roadways. CHP personnel will be deployed on an overtime basis with the mission of apprehending impaired drivers. In addition to enforcing DUI laws, officers will also enforce all other traffic safety laws such as, speeding, unsafe passing, and occupant restraint violations.

Utilizing project-funded overtime, the CHP will conduct a minimum of 110 sobriety/driver license checkpoints, 35 DUI task force operations and deploy proactive DUI enforcement patrol operations statewide. Additionally, the CHP will conduct local traffic safety presentations and Designated Driver Programs impacting thousands of people throughout California.

Enforcement activities in the statewide DUI crackdown began January 1, 2009, and will continue through September 30, 2009.